

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9238
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3452

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NP
SUBJ:GON REPRESENTATIVE AGAINST STATE DEPARTMENT MEETING
WITH B.P. KOIRALA

REF: KATHMANDU 3349; STATE 184549

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY JOINT MINISTRY JAGDISH RANA CALLED IN DCM AUGUST 18 TO MAKE REPRESENTATION, ON INSTRUCTIONS, AGAINST STATE DEPARTMENT MEETING WITH B.P. KOIRALA ON AUGUST 5. RANA SAID KOIRALA HAD BEEN RELEASED ENTIRELY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD. CRIMINAL CHARGES CONTINUED TO BE OUTSTANDING AGAINST HIM, AND, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HMG WISHED USG TO KNOW THAT IT "DID NOT APPRECIATE" STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVING MET WITH KOIRALA, AN ACTION WITH HMG VIEWED "WITH CONCERN". RANA ADDED THAT SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF THE USG COULD BE EXPLOITED BY PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO UNDERMINE EXISTING HIGH LEVEL OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND U.S., AND SAID HE BELIEVED NEWS OF KOIRALA'S RECEPTION AT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN INDIAN PRESS (THE STATESMAN).

2. DCM REVIEWED POINTS HE MADE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY AUGUST 10 (PARA 7 STATE 184549), AND NOTED CURRENT
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OPEN DOOR POLICY OF STATE DEPARTMENT. DCM ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PRESS COVERAGE OF KOIRALA'S VISIT TO STATE DEPARTMENT, AND NOTED THAT NONE OF INDIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS HE HAD SEEN OF KOIRALA'S AUGUST 6 MEETING WITH INDIAN NEWSMEN HAD MADE ANY MENTION OF B.P.'S VISIT TO STATE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING UNNA'S STORY IN THE STATESMAN. RANA NOTED THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DUBS HAD CHARACTERIZED MEETING TO NEPALESE EMBASSY AS UNEVENTFUL AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE, AND DCM SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WAS APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION.

3. AS WE NOTED IN KATHMANDU 3271, B.P'S MEETING WITH STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMED LIKELY TO TOUCH SENSITVIE NERVE HERE BECAUSE FROM HMG'S POINT OF VIEW HE STILL STANDS ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST THE STATE. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE SENSITIVITY OF HMG ON THIS MATTER, WE ARE INCLINED TO READ THE REPRESENTATION AS A PRO- FORMA AND LOW-KEY REACTION, WHICH TOOK EIGHT DAYS TO MATERIALIZE FOLLOWING DCM'S INFORMING FOREIGN SECRETARY AUGUST 10 OF KOIRALA'S TALKS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.
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